

not speaking

House Bill 5630: An Act Concerning the Establishment of Licensure for an
Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner

March 16, 2009

To the Public Health Committee:

My name is Karen Phillips. I have been a dental assistant since I was sixteen years old.

I had the opportunity to work part-time for a dentist after school.

I have continued to make a living in this field for 40 years. I started out with a very meager salary but then worked (18) years for an orthodontist and an oral surgeon for (20) years, and am still employed there. My salary is still much less than a hygienist but I love the work.

I am a certified oral and maxillofacial surgery assistant. I am DANB certified and am also a member of the American Dental Assistant Association.

I believe that dental assistants need to have a more professional career ladder as the pay is low for what we do. Without a dental assistant, the dentist is extremely lost. At this time, there is very little incentive to become an assistant other than job satisfaction.

I believe offering dental assistants the opportunity to become Expanded Function Dental Assistants will benefit all people – the dentist, the assistant and most of all, the public.

The dentist can get more meaningful work done if the assistant can take on more duties. If the assistant has more duties, job satisfaction rises. The turnover is less. Many more patients can be seen.

I believe all will benefit from in the long run, especially the people of Connecticut.

Many other states have successfully implemented the EFDA program.

Sincerely,

Karen H. Phillips, COMSA